

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
YOSHIHIRO ISHIDA)	Examiner: Kathleen S. Yuan
)	
Appln. No.: 10/617,042)	Group Art Unit: 2624
)	
Filed: July 11, 2003)	Confirmation No. 3064
)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS)	
AND METHOD AND PROGRAM)	
STORAGE MEDIUM)	January 22, 2009

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

COMMENT ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached to the Notice of Allowability accompanying the January 14, 2009 Notice of Allowance states in part, "Claims 1 and 5 contain allowable subject matter regarding the photographing position information being attached to an image of a person's head, wherein the information is one of four values, as claimed, and that the values are associated with a specific angle range, as claimed, that are all different from each other, and a position of the head in the image, and that the first claimed angle range is broader than the second, third and fourth angle ranges, and finally that the determined angle range is used for face detection processing."

But independent Claims 1 and 5 do not recite that photographing position information is attached to an image of a person's head, or that all of the values are associated with a position of the head in the image. Nevertheless, these claims are allowable for the unique combination of features recited therein.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gary M. Jacobs/

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